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ABSTRACT

In an image data processing method of recording auxiliary data intended for splicing with the MPEG-2 technique to a recording medium, a VBV delay of an *I* or *P* picture is acquired from an data group led by the *I* or *P* picture and including a *B* picture, a VBV delay (VBV_delay_N) of a next picture is pre-acquired, the acquired VBV delay is recorded to an auxiliary recording area provided for each data group in order to record encoded image data to a predetermined recording area in a recording medium for each data group, and the pre-acquired VBV_delay_N is recorded to an auxiliary recording area for a next picture, provided correspondingly to a recording area for the next picture.